

Text of the mandate approved by the Council of Ministers in Brussels (31 May 1976)

Caption: At the Council meeting on 31 May 1976 in Brussels, the Ministers of Western European Union (WEU) adopt a new mandate for the Standing Armaments Committee (SAC). The new mandate instructs the SAC to submit to the WEU Permanent Council, before the end of 1976, a detailed analysis of the situation of the armaments industry in the Member States, so as to gain a clearer insight into the industrial and economic implications of the standardisation of armaments.

Source: Council of the Western European Union. Text of the mandate approved by the Council of Ministers at their Meeting in Brussels on 31st May 1976. 2 p. Archives nationales de Luxembourg (ANLux).<http://www.anlux.lu>. Western European Union Archives. Secretariat-General/Council's Archives. 1954-1987. Organs of the Western European Union. Year: 1975, 01/11/1975- 30/10/1976. File 202.411.19. Volume 2/4.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/text_of_the_mandate_approved_by_the_council_of_ministers_in_brussels_31_may_1976-en-62ca3da6-d373-4627-9489-f77b63e0ee56.html



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Annex

The Standing Armaments Committee, acting under the authority of the Council, is instructed to make a descriptive analysis of the situation of the armaments industry in member countries. The purpose of this analysis is to gain a clearer insight into the industrial and economic implications of the standardisation of armaments. It shall be directed to formulating a diagnosis.

(a) Definition of the armaments sector

The concept of armaments should be defined by distinguishing between armaments as such and the production of goods and services for national defence.

(b) Collection of economic data

One purpose of the study will be to assemble figures showing the relative scale of armaments production in each of the countries and between them, and covering such points as amount of investment, research, sources of funds (public and private), manpower and exports (divided into the European, Atlantic and other areas).

(c) Legal status of firms and domestic legislation

The study should also identify the various legal statuses of arms firms.

TEXT OF THE MANDATE APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
AT THEIR MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON 31ST MAY, 1976

- (1) The Standing Armaments Committee is instructed to submit to the Permanent Council, before the end of 1976, a detailed outline programme for a study as set out in the Annex, and a description of its proposed method of work;
- (2) The Permanent Council will study carefully the outline programme and the proposed method of work submitted to them by the S.A.C., taking account of the determination of governments to avoid all duplication and any encroachment on work in progress elsewhere. The aim of the Council's consideration of the S.A.C.'s outline programme will be to specify the terms and define the scope of the study to be assigned to it. They will take account, in particular, of the tasks undertaken by the European Programme Group at their meeting in the autumn of 1976;
- (3) The Permanent Council are authorised to take decisions on the proposals thus submitted;
- (4) The Permanent Council will follow the development of the work and will report to Ministers at their next meeting;
- (5) The Permanent Council have also been authorised to consider at a later stage the possibility of including the following points in the study:

- Inventory of capacities

Here, the aim would be to identify, by main categories, the weak and strong points of the European industry, together with the sectors where it can compete on favourable terms.

- Inventory of relations between industries in different European countries

At industrial level, there is already a network of contacts and various forms of occasional or systematic co-operation. These experiments should be analysed with a view to possible rationalisation on a European scale.

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